

aspirants after the higher branches of the arts will be infinitely multiplied, and the deficiency of manufacturing artists will not be supplied."

The masters, it appears, are not allowed the slightest opinion as to the mode of study required by each class of pupils; one common routine is marked out for all. The whole of the copies to be placed before the students are selected for the masters, and their pupils are removed from class to class even without their knowledge.

Both writers agree in urging that the masters should be brought into more immediate connection with the council.

"The master, however, is the true cultivator of the field; he best knows what the soil requires, and where and how to distribute the seeds; on this ground I would venture to claim for his observations, that practical appreciation which is ever due to careful reasoning on accurately noted facts. What then must the council think of a system which, while making no official call for communications of this character from the masters, appropriates, smother, or evades the volunteer suggestions of experienced teachers?—which renders men, whose education for their peculiar purpose has been that of a life, directly amenable, in their departments, to one of avowedly less knowledge or skill therein?—which nominally places them under the control and guidance of a score of eminent men, to whom all direct access is barred, so leaving them (the masters) at the mercy of any side-wind, misconstruction, or even misrepresentation? If it can be shown, as shown it can be, that, night after night, the real task of directing and instructing the classes has been intrusted to the masters, it will, I doubt not, be surprising that reports have been drawn up, as representing the annual proceedings of the institution, without a word of consultation thereon with a single master of the school!"

Mr. Redgrave, who has addressed a letter to Lord John Russell on the state of the school, dwells even more strongly, as we are given to understand, on this point, and even questions the use of the office of director. He advises that the head masters should be removed from any such direction; that they should be liberally paid, and should be sent out to examine the foreign schools, and, into our own manufacturing towns, to learn the nature of the machinery and the real wants of the native designer. He strongly advocates the use of lectures on every branch of arts and manufactures, and a periodical free exhibition of all the drawings made by the students. With regard to a class for practical design, he speaks strongly, and affirms that without it the schools must continue mere drawing schools. We understand that the memorials have been referred to a private committee of the council, and that some considerable alterations in the management of the establishment may be looked for. Certain it is, that they are imperatively called for, and the council will ill discharge their duty to the public if they delay making them.

The importance of cultivating taste, and improving skill in design, is made every day more evident; the value of art, in a commercial point of view, is gradually becoming apparent to all, and with it comes a feeling of the importance of efficient management in the National School of Design.

PUBLIC ABATTOIRS, OR SLAUGHTERING HOUSES.—It is proposed to form a company for the purpose of erecting slaughtering-houses on the four sides of London, contiguous to railways and established markets. Existing interests will be strong opponents; but, that the improvement contemplated by the scheme will be effected one of these days, there can be no doubt.

* Townsend.

LEAVES FROM AN ARCHITECT'S DIARY.

IV.

SUPPLY OF WATER—GRANT DEFICIENCY—WATER—PUBLIC CONDUITS—FACILITIES—SCHEMATA.

—WIKTUNA or not hydropathy ought to have the credit, people certainly are becoming, more and more, water drinkers. As habits of temperance increase, we shall need still more of nature's own beautiful and delightful element. Trifling occurrences shew great changes in habits and manners. Accounts from Manchester say, that drinking wells are provided in the public parks, and that the committee of the late Athenæum soirée were especially careful to afford a copious supply of pure water. In many large towns, great exertions are being made to improve the supply; in some cases it is obtained from a long distance at much expense, in others, artesian wells are sunk to great depth for the purpose. Its importance in the sanitary improvement of towns is also beginning to be felt; and a few years hence, we shall look upon the present inadequate quantity in the metropolis, as betokening strange forgetfulness of one of our most important wants. With all the advantages of improvement, as in the mechanism of filtration, and the supply to houses—if these are modern inventions—we may yet take a valuable lesson from the former masters of the world. Centuries will pass, and not efface the traces of the aqueducts of ancient Rome, which formed continual streams, not only for the domestic wants of an immense population, but for the service of numerous baths, and those very sanitary purposes, for which it is most needed amongst ourselves, but which are altogether unprovided for. It is not only the uses of water that are manifold, but it contributes to the beauties of nature and the resources of art. The swift rivulet, or the mountain torrent, in the landscape, and the fountains in the city, attest the value of the clear element, as an ingredient of the beautiful in the works of nature and of art. We underestimate those gifts of nature, which are easily obtained, and even suffer privation, and deny ourselves much pleasurable gratification. Till the time of the attempts in Trafalgar-square, fountains were never thought of, as works for the embellishment of cities. Wine has often been a theme for poetry; why might not an Anacreon sing the praises of water. That which imparts health to the body, satisfies a want, aids in every department of science, manufactures, and domestic economy, is the highway of nations, and the universal source of motion in the machine; purifies the air, and delights the sense, which is at once the most valuable and beautiful of all nature's gifts to man, should invoke a poetic strain, worthy to float upon the wave of time.

—In some parts of Spain, my friends who have tasted melons there, when water is scarce, and would be denied, wine is plentiful, and is granted freely for the asking. Now we are so far worse off in London, that we cannot have the water, and do not get the wine. Were my chamber in Spain, I dare say I could, provided such were my "particular vanity," take a bath in wine, at some nominal outlay; here, sufficient water for a morning immersion can hardly be had "at any price." In London, a bath in every chamber would be a thing unknown before; a bath-room is quite uncommon. But a bath is just as desirable, in a room, as a wash-hand basin, and might be provided constantly, if there were a copious supply of water, or at least the option of having it, on each floor of a house. We are learning some of these things, but by very slow degrees.

—Connected with the subject, there is a matter worth thinking of, on the occasion of any attempt to improve the supply of water. In reading accounts of ancient London, we find frequent mention of the public conduits, which, if we except the works at London Bridge, erected at a late date, and not extensively useful, were the only means of supplying the wants of the inhabitants, until the completion of the New River works by Sir Hugh Middleton. Judging from the descriptions and drawings, many of them must have been very beautiful objects. They were elaborately decorated with the rich carving of the medieval artists, and were designed so that the water issued from them in jets and spouts of curious device. Many a pedestrian, in the dust and heat of summer, would be glad to stop at such a resting place; and could fountains or conduits of a similar kind be erected, they would form

most pleasing features in the architecture of our streets. Whether it be, that the mind is sensible of any gratifying contrast with the toil of business, or that the motion of the water is always suggestive of beautiful impressions, certainly there are few adjuncts so desirable to the architecture of cities, and none, of which we are so unaccountably deficient.

—From the extraordinary carelessness, which has long been manifest, about providing a proper supply of water, we might almost suppose it to be unnecessary, or difficult of attainment. The last notion is the only one which it could be necessary to combat. As long as the country is blessed with rivers, it is only necessary that the water should be directed, or raised therefrom, to meet the most important object of improvements, the cleansing of sewers. Under a good plan, carried out with ordinary skill, there could be no difficulty. A supply of pure water is, of course, necessary for household purposes; and this it may be necessary to get from a distance; but the matter would be much less difficult of attainment, were the two objects considered apart from each other, as they really are. Under a proper arrangement of the sewers, with reservoirs at a sufficient elevation, supplied from the river, the whole of the metropolis could be washed out at any time, say once a day. The idea seems so simple, that many must wonder it has never been attempted; it might almost be supposed that a river did not exist in the neighbourhood, or that there was a fear of its being run dry. One thing seems certain,—this is the principle which some day or other must be carried out, and the sooner it is thought of the better.

—The difficulties about increasing the supply for ordinary purposes are themselves insignificant, though greater than in the other case. It is probable that artesian wells will be quite inadequate; and it has been stated somewhere, that water from the chalk strata is in some degree calculated to produce diseases of a serious nature. This matter of health cannot be too carefully considered, and will itself form a strong argument for incurring the expense of a supply from a distance, even when water might be obtained on the spot.—The injury which is likely to result, too, from the use of leaden cisterns, cannot be too often urged; and slate cisterns are now generally substituted. A writer in the *Athenæum* recommends, that when the leaden cistern cannot be removed, a temporary zinc bottom should be made to fit inside, and lay above the other, the zinc being taken out once a fortnight, and carefully cleaned. Unless the water hold certain salts in solution, which will prevent the usual result, the whole of the liberated lead, which would otherwise be taken into the human system, will be precipitated upon the zinc. For water-pipes, it is said that an inch or two of zinc, screwed on at the end, so that it can be taken off and cleaned, will be found to be effectual. But the best course is, obviously, to adopt some other material.

CARE FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCE IN BELGIUM.—Although we are perfectly aware that laws and regulations look more complete on paper than they may be in reality, we were somewhat struck on looking over the nine titles and fifty-seven articles of the *Règlement sur les trottoirs* (regulations of footpaths), enacted and published of late, by the Lord Mayor and Common Council, at Brussels. Every thing relating to the solidity, regularity, and salubrity of public thoroughfares seems to be provided for with singular minuteness, of which we shall give our readers a specimen; selecting Title II., Art. 16., stipulating that "footpaths shall not be interrupted through carriage gates." The intervals comprised between the threshold of the carriage gate and the border of the footpath are to consist of two blocks of stone, of blue material, placed fan-like, one at the right, the other on the left side of the entrance, and transecting the footpath transversely—they shall be filled up, either by a paving in free-stone, of strong mason's work, and the surface thereof cut in oblique squares, of 10—12 centimetres breadth each, or by a paving similar to that of the footpath; according to whether the administration will prescribe the employment of free-stone, or permit the use of common paving-stones. The edge of the border is to be rounded.